

10-31-02

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

on: OCTOBER 30, 2002

David Edwards

David Edwards, Reg. No. 27,293

OCTOBER 29, 2002

Date of Signature

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent application of:

Jashawant J. Modi

Serial No.: 08/992,150

Filed: December 17, 1997

For: Hydrophobically Modified Polysaccharide  
In Household Preparations

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)  
) Examiner: E. J. Webman  
)  
) Art Unit: 1615  
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Honorable Assistant Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**RESPONSE**

In response to the Official Action dated September 27, 2002, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are earnestly solicited.


The rejection of claims 1-7, 9-11, 13, and 16 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Snell et al is traversed. Applicant's invention is directed to a household product composition comprising a vehicle system which comprises a hydrophobically modified water-soluble polysaccharide that comprises a hydrophilic portion and a backbone portion and at least one active household care ingredient. Snell does not disclose applicant's invention. Snell does not disclose the use of a hydrophobically modified water-soluble polysaccharide in its fungicide with the active ingredient. More specifically, Snell does not disclose the hydrophobically modified hydroxyethylcellulose (HMHEC) but rather only discloses in Example 70 the use of hydroxyethylcellulose (HEC) which is significantly different both chemically and

physically from applicant's hydrophobically modified hydroxyethylcellulose (HMHEC). Applicant's hydrophobically modified polysaccharide is chemically different from the disclosure in Snell because the hydrophobic modification of applicant's invention imparts significantly different properties to the composition than the HEC mentioned in Snell. These hydrophobically modified polysaccharides of the instant invention also require different manufacturing procedures than the mere HEC mentioned in Snell. The only thing that Snell and the instant invention have in common concerning the polysaccharide is that the HEC of Snell can be used as the backbone starting material for making the hydrophobically modified material of the instant invention. It is well known in the prior art that HMHEC and HEC are significantly different both chemically and physically. Hence, Snell clearly does not anticipate the instant invention.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 14 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Notwithstanding this recommendation, it is believed that the remaining claims of this application are also in condition for allowance at this time.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and prompt notification thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
David Edwards  
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October 29, 2002